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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR FO; NEA/SA/EX FOR AUSTIN-FERGUSON; DEPT FOR  
DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [PHUM](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [ASEC](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: APRIL 22, 2005 (1600 HOURS LOCAL) --  
11 PEACE ACTIVISTS INJURED IN THE WEST BANK, TWO SHOOTING  
INCIDENTS IN THE GAZA STRIP RESULT IN NO INJURIES.

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

1. (SBU) Summary: In the West Bank, 11 Palestinian and foreign peace activists were lightly injured when hit by rubber-coated bullets during clashes with the IDF in the village of Bil'in, west of Ramallah, April 21. The IDF found and defused a six-kilogram explosive device near Jenin on April 21. Two detainees who are members of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) escaped from Tulkarm prison, April 22. In the Gaza Strip, the IDF reported two shooting incidents April 21, one near Neve Dekalim and one south of an IDF outpost at Rafah, but no injuries occurred. According to Israeli media April 22, sources in the Prime Minister's office are reporting that Gaza disengagement will be postponed until August 15. End Summary.

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West Bank  
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2. (SBU) ATTACKS/ARRESTS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: According to Palestinian reports, 11 Palestinian and foreign peace activists were lightly injured by rubber-coated bullets during clashes with the IDF in the village of Bil'in, west of Ramallah, April 21. Activists were protesting construction of the separation barrier on lands belonging to village residents.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, IDF troops entered Jenin April 21, conducted a major search operation, and arrested three Palestinians.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian media, the IDF arrested four Palestinians in the village of Dahariya, near Hebron, April 22.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian sources, the IDF arrested a Fatah activist near Salfit, April 21.

3. (SBU) SECURITY INCIDENTS:

-- According to Palestinian media, the IDF found and defused a six-kilogram explosive device in a near Jenin on April 21.

-- According to Palestinian reports, IDF entered Nablus on April 21 and surrounded a house in Balata refugee camp. Two members of Al-Aqsa Martyrs, Brigades, who were inside the house, engaged in a brief shoot-out with the IDF, but managed to escape. Following the incident, al-Aqsa Martyrs, Brigades in Nablus announced that it is no longer committed to the Sharm el-Sheikh ceasefire understanding, citing continued Israeli operations against militants.

-- According to Palestinian reports, the IDF completely sealed off the area around the enclave of settlements in the Old City of Hebron, April 21. Reportedly, shots were fired towards settlers, homes prompting the closure.

-- According to Palestinian reports, two detainees, Ahmad Radad and Shafiq Marouf, both members of Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), escaped from Tulkarm prison on April 22. They had been arrested in connection to the February 2005 suicide bombing in Tel Aviv. Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces are looking for the escapees.

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Gaza  
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4. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Deaths: Nil.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Mortars/Rockets: The IDF reported that three mortar shells

exploded April 22, two in the vicinity of an IDF outpost west of Khan Yunis and one near Neve Dekalim, but no injuries occurred.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported two shooting incidents April 21, one near Neve Dekalim and one south of an IDF outpost at Rafah, but no injuries occurred.

15. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

16. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open April 22, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction. Abu Khouli checkpoint was closed.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals and for a limited number of Palestinians April 21, and 1,665 laborers and 82 merchants crossed into Israel.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was open April 21. The number of laborers who entered was not available.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers April 22, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open April 22.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures April 22.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed April 22. Toufah checkpoint was open for residents of al-Mowassi, except males aged between 16-30.

17. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- According to Israeli media April 22, sources in the Prime Minister's office are reporting that the evacuation of settlers from Gaza will be postponed until August 15. PM Sharon reportedly announced the delay the week of April 11, following a request from a Sephardic rabbi that the settlers not be forced to move during the three-week period commemorating the destruction of the First and Second Temples. That period coincided with the originally scheduled evacuation dates.  
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